THE ARIZONA SILVER BELT

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NEW YORK INDIANS.

But Little Advanced Above Their Arizona Brethren, the Apaches.

The misguided philanthropists of the East who are continually meddling in the management of the Indians in the West, would find it profitable to study the "noble red man" nearer home, where after two hundred years' contact with the whites, and the repeated efforts to civilize them and instill habits of thrift, they are still shiftless, semi-barbarous people, adhering tenaciously to the superstitious rites, customs and vices of their ancestors.

The New York Sun some time since published an interesting article on the Indians in New York State, now numbering about 5000, and occupying between 80,000 and 90,000 acres. The majority of these Indians are descendants of the Iroquois and a large proportion of them belong to the Seneca tribe, always the most powerful and important of the Six Nations. The Senecas are now gathered into the Tonawanda, Cattarangus and Allegheny reservations, in Niagara, Erie and Cattaraugus counties. The two latter are larger than the first and contain the bulk of the tribe. The Indians keep up the tribal government, republican in form, by which they have been ruled since white men first knew them.

The white man can find many things of interest within the limits of the reservations, and a trip to one of them is well worth taking. It is not difficult to tell when the boundary line has been crossed, for well-cultivated farms give way to land covered with underbrush and other wild growths, rough cart trails take the place of graded roads, and the general air of prosperity that graces nearly all this western New York country disappears. There is tilled land on the reservations, but usually it is only a small plot of an acre or two adjoining the houses, and planted with corn and potatoes. One may travel day after day through these Indian farms and rarely see a man at work in the fields. The custom of permitting the squaws to do most of the work still prevails.

The ordinary habitation is a rude shanty structure of boards, with a couple of windows and a single door. About the door play half a dozen children and as many dogs, the latter decidedly lean and hungry.

Although most of the reservation lands lie in a rich farming country, the Indians' main subsistence does not come from the cultivation of the soil. In the winter season he weaves baskets, and when spring comes he digs the fragrant sassafras root, which is found in plenty along the Allegheny river. Later in the season he starts out to sell his wares among the whites. The wagon, loaded high with baskets, is drawn by a broken down horse or a yoke of cattle. The head of the family sits on the top of the load, holding the reins or wielding the lash, and almost invariably smoking a black pipe. The squaw and the children trude along behind, stopping at the farm houses to make sales. When the harvest season comes the Indian may work for a few weeks for some of his white neighbors, and thereby earn a few dollars to carry him through the winter.

The one great weakness of the reservation Indian, as of his less civilized brother, is for firewater. Strong drink seems to have a peculiar attraction for him and to be particularly disastrous in its effects. An Indian inflamed with drink is usually quarrelsome and often a dangerous customer to deal with. In spite of the heavy penalties, the law forbidding the selling of liquor to Indians is constantly violated in all the towns near the reservation. A favorite method of evading the law is to mix a quantity of bad whisky with very hard cider, and to sell the compound as a soft drink. As the cider is usually a near approach to vinegar, the deadly effects of the concoction may be imagined. Nevertheless, this business is profitable, and many a farmer takes this way of disposing of his crop of cider apple.

The foregoing statements, says the Sun, may give the impression that the reservation Indians are not, on the whole, a thrifty lot, and such is likely to be the opinion of one who travels through their country. There are, of course, many exceptions, but the average Indian does not make progress because he is not ambitious. He seldom looks ahead further than the next season, and is quite content if he may sit in the sun and smoke his pipe. It takes severe bodily discomfort to make him patch up his house, and in the spring he is well satisfied to have got through the winter without freezing.

The village wag thought he would have some fun with the mild-mannered young man who had recently taken charge of the county paper. "I say," he said, coming into the office excitedly, "there's a man on the street looking for you with a club." The young editor looked up pleasantly. "Is that so?" he inquired. "We make a special reduction to clubs. How many subscribers has he got?"

WHERE WE ARE WEAK.

The Urgent Necessity of Better Coast Defenses.

"A million of armed men couldn't defend New York City against a single war ship," Samuel J. Tilden said, a short time before his death, in a letter urging the importance of preparation for the defense of coast cities.

In the recent patriotic outburst, inspired by the President's Venezuelan message, the war department has been impressed with the popular misconception of what a war at the present time would mean.

War no longer means men. It doesn't mean great loss of human life. There came to the war department of the United States a few days ago an official report from the Japanese Government of the casualties sustained by the Japanese armies in the entire campaign against China. It showed that the total loss in killed sustained by the Japanese armies was 689 men. This seemed almost incredible. The Japanese minister was asked about it. He said the report was true; that his country had lost less than 700 men in conquering China. In the late civil war the fatalities of the Northern army were 110,000. In a single charge at Spottsylvania the present general of the army had as many men killed as the Japanese lost in the late war. The war of today and tomorrow means millions of dollars and hundreds not thousands of lives. Gener..l Miles, now at the head of the United States army, does not believe this country needs a large army. He would increase the present limit of 25,000, but not largely.

The civil war lasted four years. Two of those years were consumed in getting ready to do the real fighting and battle-winning of the last two years. The war between Japan and China continued only about as many months as the war between the States occupied years. No war that could be started now with modern methods would last a year, the military experts say. Six months, they think, would see the end of any conflict that might arise between Great Britain and this country. Impressed with the changed conditions of warfare and oppressed with the feeling that public sentiment in this country is not alive to the real situation, officers of both the war and the navy departments have spoken freely and emphatically of the want of preparation.

Ten years ago a plan of sea coast defenses was adopted. It was elaborate and complete. It provided for the fortification of twenty-seven ports and Puget Sound. These included all of the principal cities and harbors on the Atlantic, the Pacific and the Gulf coasts. There were to be mounted 677 of the most modern guns and 824 mortars. And to make assurance doubly sure, the board of eminent engineers who formulated the plan of sea coast defenses, suggested the addition of floating batteries to the big guns and mortars on shore. The plan called for an expenditure of $21,500,000 the first year and $8,000,000 a year until the work was done. Under this recommendation, the engineers were certain the system of defense of the twenty-seven coast cities and harbors could be completed by December, 1895. With such a system of sea coast defenses the United States can defy the world. This nation has simply to close its ports, feed and clothe itself and await attack. It can never be conquered, and, while presenting no vulnerable point for attack, it can send its navy forth to inflict damage on its adversary.

Up to the present time there has been spent upon the plan of defense $10,000,000 instead of $97,000,000. That is why the military authorities speak so discouragingly of this country's readiness for war. High authorities give $75,000,000 as the amount which will put the coast in a proper state of defense. This amount is not asked at once. If the money was supplied as fast as it could be used advantageously, the year 1900 would see the principal ports of the country approaching a condition of security from foreign attack. The Government now owns an equipped factory which can produce thirty-five of these big guns a year. A contract has been given to a private corporation at Bethlehem, Pa., which has prompted the construction of a plant there and from that source the Government in the next half a dozen years will receive 100 big guns. These guns weigh from thirty to forty tons.

At only three ports have any of the sea coast defenses reached that stage of completion in which immediate use could be made of them. New York has two of the largest-sized guns yet made in position for service. The same port has sixteen of the big mortars. San Francisco has one of the big guns and sixteen of the mortars. Boston, which is to have forty-three of the big guns and 128 mortars, has not a single gun in place and only sixteen of the mortars.

But the progress of preparation has reached that point where a great deal can be accomplished by the time the Venezuelan commission may be expected to report. In July, according to information obtained at the war department, there will be 134 of the big guns ready for mounting. Unfortunately, the other branches have not gone forward so rapidly. The construction of carriages and emplacements is so far behind that only twenty-four of these guns can be made available in July. It rests with Congress to determine whether the sea coast defenses shall be pushed.—Washington correspondence of the Globe-Democrat.

Babbit metal for sale at the Belt office.

Lucky in One Respect.

Office Boy—Oh, Mr. Scratcher, d'ye mind that man who was in here jus' a little while ago?

Country Editor—Yessiree, I do. That was Mr. Hayseed, and he came in and paid five years' back subscription that I've most run my legs off trying to get.

"Well, he'd hardly got out of the office before he was hit by a runaway team an' killed."

"My! My! That's shocking! Well, there's one consolation, anyway. He went straight to heaven.—New York Weekly.

The recent meeting between the engineers of the Southern Pacific and the officials of the road proved to be very satisfactory. The engineers were not asking for any change in the present agreement, but were asking that the agreement be lived up to. Manager Kruttschmitt told the engineers that he considered the agreement as more than an agreement, it was a contract. He intended to have the company live up to it and expected the engineers to do so also, and he did not want to see them again for five years. The engineers were greatly pleased at the outcome of the hearing and all the employes of the road are glad to find out that the new manager is so willing to abide by agreements with employes.—Lordsburg Liberal.

Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is famous for its cures of bad colds. It opens the secretions, relieves the lungs and aids nature in restoring the system to a healthy condition. If freely used as soon as the cold has been contracted, and before it has become settled in the system, it greatly lessens the severity of the attack and has often cured in a single day what would have been a severe cold. For sale by H. C. Hitchcock, druggist.

Mr. Robert Williams, of the Silver King hotel, Florence, is in the city looking to a removal here and a reopening of the old Cosmopolitan hotel. It is understood that he has made a proposition to Dr. Goodfellow, owner of the building, that if he would expend $5000 in improvements on the hotel building he, Williams, would expend a like amount in furnishing the same. Ten thousand expended on the Cosmopolitan would make it the finest hotel in southern Arizona, and would fill a long felt want in this city. Mr. Williams is among the best hotel men in the country and he should be encouraged to make his home here.—Tucson Citizen.

The suggestion made in regard to the utilization of the waters of the Colorado river in the development of gold mines on the desert running for miles along its banks, is both timely and practicable, says the San Francisco Post. The gold deposits in this vicinity are of such extent as to rival the recently discovered fields in South Africa, and the character of the formation is very similar. All that is wanted now is the water, and that can be readily applied with the intervention of capital.

Some time ago Mr. Simon Goldbaum, of San Luis Rey, Cal., was troubled with a lame back and rheumatism. He used Chamberlain's Pain Balm and a prompt cure was effected. He says he has since advised many of his friends to try it and all who have done so have spoken highly of it. It is for sale by H. C. Hitchcock, druggist.

We are pleased to learn that Mrs. Clinton B. Fisk, who recently met with a serious accident in Los Angeles, Cal., has fully recovered and resumed her travels through Washington and Oregon.

"I wonder who started that slang about getting it in the neck?" said the curious boarder. "Some man whose wife bought him a necktie at a bargain sale, likely," said the cheerful idiot.—Exchange.

Lively as a Cricket.

Although in the first instance as sluggish as a tortoise, the kidneys become as lively as a cricket when a healthful impulse is given to them with Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, a promoter of activity in these organs which counteracts a tendency to their lethargy and disease. Inaction of the kidneys, it should be remembered, is the first stage of these dangerous renal maladies against which the resources of medical science are too often exhausted in vain. Peril is forestalled by the Bitters, which averts Bright's disease, diabetes, dropsy, gravel and the troubles arising from a weak bladder. Equally efficacious is it in checking and eradicating malarial, bilious and nervous ailments, dyspepsia, constipation and rheumatism. Appetite and sleep are improved and convalescence hastened by its beneficent action. Either when health is slightly or seriously impaired, the value of this restorative and preventive medicine is speedily made manifest.

Notice to Creditors.

ESTATE OF RODERICK McINTOSH, DECEASED. Notice is hereby given by the undersigned administrator of the estate of Roderick McIntosh, deceased, to the creditors of and all persons having claims against the said deceased, to exhibit them, with the necessary vouchers, within four months after the first publication of this notice to the said administrator at the Probate office; the same being the place for the transaction of the business of said estate, in said county of Gila.

CHAS. T. MARTIN,
Administrator of Estate of Roderick McIntosh, deceased.

Dated Globe, this 23d day of December, 1895.

OUR CLUBBING LIST.

We have made arrangements with publishers by which we are enabled to offer any one of the following well known weekly newspapers and monthly magazines in connection with the ARIZONA SILVER BELT, at greatly reduced rates. This offer is to new subscribers, and to old subscribers who pay a year's subscription in advance:

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THE STAGE.

Henry Arthur Jones, the playwright, is going to drop his Jones and call himself Henry Arthur.

The Empress theater, London, has a stage so large that there is space on it for 6,000 people.

It is said that Desperado Bill Cook, who is in Sing Sing penitentiary, is writing a drama entitled "Men I Have Killed." The plot is laid in an Oklahoma cemetery.

M. Lamoureux, the concert director, is going to build a theater in Paris on the plans of Wagner's Bayreuth theater. It will be finished in 1898, when the first performances will be of the Nibelungen trilogy.

As a general rule, Mme. Sarah Bernhardt holds that an actor or actress should retire from the stage at the age of 50, although she confesses that she has seen many who should have disappeared at the age of five-and-twenty.

Eleonora Duse has recovered sufficiently from her illness to make engagements to act in Sweden and Norway in December and in Holland and Belgium in January. She has added Sudermann's "Heimath" to her repertory.

Woman has forced her way into the orchestra seats of the Comedie Francaise, which heretofore only man could occupy. She must appear in full dress, however, and bonnets and all other forms of coverings for the head must be left outside.

Judic is going to act in Berlin. She says that France and Germany ought to live on good terms with each other, and that she detests the thought of war, as she has two sons. Moreover, she wants to see Emperor William, who interests her greatly.

THE WORLD'S ODD CORNERS.

Nails are not used in constructing Japanese houses. The parts are joined by an ingenious system of mortising.

A new volcano, which is emitting immense quantities of smoke, lava and fire, has been discovered at Jalcotan, Mexico.

Cecil Rhodes has ordered large numbers of English song birds, linnets, thrushes, blackbirds, larks and nightingales, to be sent to Cape Town, where they will be acclimatized and set free.

The people of Honolulu still eat raw fish and use their fingers in carrying it to their mouths, but they use more telephones in proportion to population than New York does.

A 20-year-old printer of Brixton, named Delago, recently scaled the westernmost and highest of the Rosengarten Dolomites in Tyrol and came down safely. The peak is 9,250 feet above sea level, rising almost perpendicularly.

There are more than 20 species of fur-bearing animals known to inhabit the Hudson bay country, ranging in size all the way from the meadow mouse and sand rat to the caribou, musk ox, bison and polar bear.

EARLY ERAS.

The "Era of Emperors," commonly adopted by the Romans after the firm establishment of imperial rule, began B. C. 27 with the accession of Augustus.

The "Christian Era" began with January 1, of the year 4714, of the Julian period, though different chronologists make a variation of a year or two in this date.

The "Era of Martyrs," a famous era in use in the early church, commemorates the tenth and last great persecution, by Diocletian, beginning February 23, 284 A. D.

The "Era of Antioch" was devised by Panodorus of Antioch, who lived in the fifth century. He assumed that the world was created September 1, B. C. 5492.

The history of Canada, especially its earlier history, preserves the story of many a deed of heroism and devotion on the part of Christian missionaries who worked and perished among the Indians, but there are few stories which reflect so much credit on Indian piety as that published from Quebec. Montagnais and Eskimos came from the southern shore of Hudson straits to worship in the province of Quebec. This involved a tramp on foot of 1,000 miles. No pilgrimage in the middle ages was ever made in circumstances of greater hardship. The citizen who is loath to walk a block to church along a smooth, dry pavement ought to think of these Indians plodding 1,000 miles through an inhospitable country, through forests, across rivers, mountains and lakes, to render a duty they owe to their religion.